NEWS RELEASE

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Court of Appeals Appoints New Bankruptcy Judge for Northern District of California

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SAN FRANCISCO — Chief Judge Mary M. Schroeder of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has announced the appointment of attorney Roger L. Efremsky as a bankruptcy judge for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of California.

Mr. Efremsky, 50, will serve a 14-year term in office, effective August 1, 2006. He succeeds Judge James R. Grube, who is stepping down from the Northern District bankruptcy bench after 18 years of service. Mr. Efremsky will maintain chambers in San Jose.

Mr. Efremsky is an experienced attorney who has practiced bankruptcy law for more than 20 years. He began his legal career as an associate at a small law firm representing debtors and creditors. In 1990, he opened the law firm of Efremsky and Nagel in Pleasanton, Calif. As a partner in that firm, he specialized in representing creditors in federal bankruptcy and state court proceedings with an emphasis on the representation of secured creditors in consumer and commercial matters.

Born in Castro Valley, Calif., Mr. Efremsky obtained a B.S. in 1978 from Menlo College in Atherton, Calif., where he graduated *magna cum laude*. He earned a J.D. from Santa Clara University School of Law in 1983. In 1979, he received a Rotary International Graduate Fellowship Scholarship to attend a one-year program at the University of Cape Town in South Africa.

Mr. Efremsky has served on numerous local rules committees for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of California. His law firm was also selected as the creditor test site for the district's electronic case filing system. In addition, he was a member of the Attorney Advisory Committee for the Office of the Clerk of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of California.

In 1996, he testified before the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Administrative Oversight of the Courts as a representative-at-large of national creditors regarding the efficiency of the U.S. Trustee program.

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The U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of California reported more than 24,400 bankruptcy filings in fiscal year 2005. The court has nine bankruptcy judges and four divisional offices serving 15 counties.

Judges of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit have statutory responsibility for selecting and appointing the 68 bankruptcy judges in the nine western states that comprise the Ninth Circuit. The court uses a comprehensive merit selection process for the initial appointment and for the reappointments. Bankruptcy judges serve a 14-year, renewable term, at a salary of \$151,984, and handle all bankruptcy-related matters under the Bankruptcy Code.

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